

Mr. Pymms

S P E E C H

T O

T H E L O R D S

In Parliament,

Sitting in VWestminster Hall, on the
Triall of *Thomas Earle of Strafford*,
the twelfth of April,
1641.




Printed in the yeare
1641.

H

Printed in the year 1800

Printed in the year 1800



Mr. PYMM'S Speech to the Lords in Parliament

sitting in Westminster Hall,
the twelfth of April,

1641.

My Lords:

THere hath been much time spent to prove our Charge, and your Lordships have heard my Lord of Straffords defence with as much patience. You have also heard our evidence summed up, whereby we have proved that he hath by traitorous words, counsels and actions, traitorously endeavoured to subvert the fundamentall Lawes of England and Ireland, and in stead thereof to introduce an Arbitrary and Tyrannicall government against Law. This (my Lords) is that peysonous arrow that hath tainted his blood, this is that cup of deadly wine that hath intoxicated him.

My Lords, it comes to my share to shew you how mischievous an act of Treason it is by that Law that he hath appealed unto, which is the supreme Law, (to wit) publick good; for his position was this, that *Salus Populi*, is *Suprema Lex*. All Lawes are derived from this, as its fountaine, and end here as its proper center. And those actions that are opposite to this, are against Law.

A 2

First,

First, my Lords, it is such an offence, as comprehends all offences, such a treason, as comprehends all treasons.

The Earth (my Lords) is a Seminary of all flowers, so is this a Seminary of all offences.

My Lords, this Law puts a difference betwixt good and evill; take away the Law (my Lords) and Nature becomes a Law to it selfe. As Pride will be a Law; Lust will be a Law, Rapine a Law, Treason a Law, which Lawes have ruled in Ireland ever since my Lord came thither.

Take away the Kings protection from the people, and you take away the peoples allegiance to the King. Prerogative is the bounds of liberty, and (my Lords) they must not contest one against another.

My Lords, I beseech you consider, ye have all under this custody; and if you take away this, you take away your goods, liberties, and lives.

My Lords he saith, that Ireland was a conquered Nation: why, were not all Nations conquered? England, Wales, &c.

The next is this, that it is an offence full of danger to the Kings person and Crowne: it nourisheth dissention and tumults in a people. If you consider the histories of Nations under arbitrary government, you shall finde them full of cruelty and bloody Massacres; yea, if you please to peruse our English histories, you shall find that when Arbitrary government was set up, how many Kings fell by cruell and bloody hands; which is fearefull to relate.

Thirdly, my Lords, it is dangerous to the King. First, in respect of his honour, Secondly, in respect

spect of his profit, and thirdly, in respect of his greatness: yet all these have beene put on upon the face of this Treason as so many vizards: can it bee (my Lords) for the Kings honour, to have his Ministers to lay all the fault upon the King? To kill, to imprison, to use Rapine, to levie warre against his people, and to ruine the State, and then all these dishonourable acts to be laid on the King? is this for the Kings honour?

Secondly, it is contrary to his profit, for if there be not an affectionate supply from the people to the King, he can never grow in his revenue.

Nay, this (my Lords) is the Kings most certaine Revenue, that issues from the affections of his people; for other Revenue, as Lands, or the like, are subject to many inconveniences, to many subtractions, and pensions, but this is free and wholly to himselfe: these fourteen years past, since there hath beene an unhappy cessation of Parliamentary proceedings, the King hath had lesse Revenue, & it doth him lesse good.

Nay, there hath beene more wanting to the King than many yeares before. Againe, it is unprofitable, and that is worle, for the King lost by it; for it hath cost him this two yeares more then it cost Queene Elizabeth in all her warres in Ireland and Spaine, yea (I feare) more than is to be repaired in an age.

Thirdly, in point of greatnesse, the world is a society of Kingdomes, and it is not enough for a King to be great at home, but to equall his fellow Princes abroad, nay to be above them in honour and Majesty, in riches and glory.

But my Lords, these Councils of late that have beene given his Majesty, have rendred him contemptible to his enemies, uselesse to his distressed friends, and had they not beene prevented in time, would have made him incapable of any designe at home or abroad.

A fourth consideration is this, my Lords, it is destructive to wealth and valour; it corrupts our peace, and in peace makes us have the malignities of warre: And for wealth, who will venture his goods, life, his liberty in the way of trading and commerce, when he knowes not upon the returne of it, whether it be his owne or nor.

Nay, my Lords, it imbaseth the spirits and valour of a Nation, when they must stand in feare of pilloring, scaffolding, and the like punishments, it makes men to be of base spirits.

Now, my Lords, to imbase the Kings coine, if it be but sixpence, or twelvapence, tis treason by the Law, and a man must dye for it: what is it then to imbase our spirits? My Lords, truly it is a matter of great importance.

Fifthly, it doth disable the King, and makes him unfit to deale with forraigne enemies: for every one thinkes to slip his neck out of the collar, when he shall be forced to it.

The sixth consideration is, that it is against the covenant betwixt the King and his people.

Before, my Lords, I spoke of a degall Oath, but now I speake of a personall: for we sweare our allegiance to him, and he is the maintenance of our Lawes to us; he is our husband, and we his wife; he is our father, and we his children: he is to maintaine our liberties, and we his dignities, and our duties.

And, my Lords, Justice *Thorpe* was condemned & executed for breaking the King's oath. My Lords, he broke not his owne oath, nor did the King breake his oath, and yet for violating that oath that the King had taken to his subjects, he suffered.

Ah! what an unfortunate man then is the prisoner at the barre, that hath in all his counsells, in all his words, in all his actions, broken the Kings oath, and

As much as in him lay, violently perswaded the King
to countenance him in all his actions?

The seventh consideration is this, my Lords, it is against the end of government: for the end of government is to preserve men in their estates, lives and liberties, but an arbitrary power destroies all this: the end of government is to advance vertue and goodness, & to punish vice; but this cherisheth all disorder.

Now, my Lords, I come to shew the vanity of his excuses, that he hath made for himselfe.

The first is the liberty of giving counsell, being a Councillor: true my Lords, he hath this liberty, but its bounded within its lists, and it must be such counsell as must stand with the sacred Majesty, and the prosperity and weale of his subjects: for if counsell be bad, it poisons the consciences of Princes, it infects their eares, for a'l government proceeds from the Prince, as from a fountaine: now if the fountaine be poysoned, how can the streames be free?

A second shift is, that he hopes your Lordships will be carefull to secure your posterity, and not to admit of this as treason.

My Lords, I know your Lordships will be carefull to secure your selves, but by your vertues, not by your vices.

The third excuse is, the goodnesse of his intentions: truly my Lords, good and evill lye close together, not easily to be discerned, if they be naturall corruptions: but for murthers, adultery, rapines, and treasons, these are so monstrous, that they may easily be distinguished.

And I cannot be perswaded that ever he intended well that acted so ill.

The fourth excuse is, the Kings necessities.

My Lords, this necessity came from his own counsels.

A fifth excuse is: It was for the Kings honour, and the maintenance of the Kings power:

My Lords, it hath beene declared unto you, that the Kings power doth not extend to any thing against
law,

by which he hath sworn to rule us, and to main-
taine our liberties and priviledges for us, and this hath
been declared by five Parliaments, and also will appear
in the case of the petition of Right, and in the case of
ship money.

A sixth is, that he advised the King to do it with mo-
deration and reparation.

My Lords, this is a contradiction, for there can be
no reparation for this.

The 7th excuse is, that no horrid facts did follow his
counsell: truly my Lords, wee thanke God, his sa-
cred Majesty, and his wise counsell for that, or else
God knowes what fearfull things would have befallen
us, nor are we free from it as yet.

To conclude now my Lords, give me leave to intreat
you to consider the treasons ordinarily practised, when
the act is done, they cease, as in killing that noble
King of France, and the severall plots against Queene
Elizabeth, but this treason of my Lord of Straffords, is
a standing Treason, which when it had beene done, it
had been permanent from generation to generation.

And now, my Lords, these Lawes that he would
have overthrowne, must now be his Iudges, and he is
to be judged by Law, and that Law will have marke
enough of it to describe it, for it is a Law against such
as breake the fundamentall Lawes of the Kingdome.

And my Lords, give me leave to informe you, that
(under favour) this is not to make a new way for
blood, nor is the crime of treason in my Lord of Straf-
ford the lesse, because none would venture upon such
a horrid Treason, in two hundred and forty yeares.

But, my Lords, for making of our Charge good by
Law, as we have fully proved it by testimony, we must
resort to Counsell with the House of Commons, and
trust to your Lordships Iustice.

FINIS.